

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/648,988
Attorney Docket: 46107-0083
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A biasing element comprising:

a center section having a length, said center section including a base opposite an insertion opening, said insertion opening extending said length;

defining a center opening defined by said center section and including said insertion opening;

a pair of legs disposed on each side of said center section, each of said legs defining a cavity having an open side and wherein each of said center opening, said insertion opening and said open sides face the same direction and wherein said open sides and said insertion opening are each located on an insertion side.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The biasing element of claim 7 wherein said center section further defines ~~a base and~~ a pair of side walls extending from said base, and wherein each of said side walls further include engagement detents.

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10. (ORIGINAL) The biasing element of claim 9 wherein said detents are opposing arcuate segments defined by said side walls.

11. (ORIGINAL) The biasing element of claim 9 wherein said center section includes a side opening in each of the side walls, said openings further defining said cavities.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A differential assembly comprising:
a differential case
a pair of side gears located within said differential case;
a pair of pinion gears coupled to a pinion shaft, said pinion shaft being coupled to said differential case so that said pinion gears rotationally engage said side gears;
a biasing element disposed within said differential case and coupled to said pinion shaft, said biasing element comprising a center section having a length and defining a center opening wherein said pinion shaft is disposed within said center opening, said biasing element further including a pair of legs disposed on each side of said center section, each of said legs defining a cavity having an open side facing the same direction as said center opening and wherein said center opening includes an insertion opening extending said length, said insertion opening being capable of allowing insertion of said pinion shaft into said center opening when said biasing element is disposed within said differential case and coupled to said pinion shaft.

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13. (ORIGINAL) The differential of claim 12 wherein said center section further defines a base and a pair of side walls extending from said base, and wherein each of said side walls further include engagement detents.

14. (ORIGINAL) The differential of claim 13 wherein said detents are opposing arcuate segments within in which the pinion shaft is seated.

15. (ORIGINAL) The biasing element of claim 13 wherein said center section includes opening in the side walls, said openings further defining said cavities.

16. (ORIGINAL) The biasing element of claim 15 wherein said differential further includes a pair of output shafts coupled to said pair of side gears, said output shafts being disposable within said cavities.

17. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 7 wherein said center section includes a pair of side walls extending between said base and said legs and wherein said legs and said side walls meet at said insertion side.

18. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 17 wherein said center opening further includes pinion shaft openings defined by said center section and said side walls, said pinion shaft openings being located adjacent to said insertion opening.

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19. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 17 wherein said legs extend away from said insertion side.
20. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 7 wherein said legs include leg ends and wherein said leg ends are opposite said insertion side.
21. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 7 wherein said legs include leg ends and wherein said leg ends are on the same side as said base.
22. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 7 wherein said insertion opening is capable of receiving a pinion shaft.
23. (NEW) A biasing element comprising:
a center section having a length, said center section defining a center opening and wherein said center opening includes an insertion opening extending said length;
a pair of legs disposed on each side of said center section, each of said legs defining a cavity having an open side and wherein each of said insertion opening and said open sides face the same direction.
24. (NEW) The biasing element of claim 23 wherein said insertion opening is capable of receiving a pinion shaft.